

# Mystery In Amsterdam

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## WASHINGTON.

Sometime after 4:30 last Sunday morning, the world's top authority on nutritional pathology, a Washington, D. C. doctor named Richard H. Follis, disappeared in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Chief Inspector Piet Landman, of the Amsterdam Police, said the 56-year-old doctor probably fell into one of the city's many canals and drowned during the Atlantic gale that raked Holland that week end.

But the body of Dr. Follis has not been discovered after extensive dragging operation.

In Europe, the press is headlining the doctor's disappearance and hinting broadly that somehow the CIA is involved. In Washington, the doctor's colleagues scoff at the idea of an intelligence connection. One pointed out: "Dick Follis was one of the most dedicated scientists in the world."

In London, usually reliable intelligence sources said that the doctor almost certainly was murdered. They refused to say how or why they arrive at that conclusion. In Amsterdam, Chief Inspector Landman insisted that "I do not think there has been a crime—just an accident."

A State Department security official called it one of the most peculiar and perplexing matters he ever has dealt with. "Almost nothing about it jibes," he said.

The doctor's background is impressive.

A graduate of Yale University (Class of '32) and Johns Hopkins Medical School ('36), Baltimore-born Dr. Follis, son of a famous surgeon, taught for several years and then, in 1955, became an employee of the Veterans Administration. That year he was detached for work at the prestigious Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, but the VA continues to pay his salary.

As the author of two textbooks on nutritional medicine (used by almost every accredited medical school) and of more than 150 articles, Dr. Follis was described by all of his medical colleagues and by doctors abroad as the recognized international authority in his field.

Since 1955, the Doctor has made more than a score of trips to odd corners of the world on survey work in the field of nutrition. In 1959 he was in Saigon and the villages of Viet Nam, in 1960 in Thailand.

## INCREASING TRAVEL

The pace of his travel then stepped up. In 1961, he visited the West Indies, Burma, Lebanon, and Colombia. The next year he went to Uruguay and Jordan. In 1963, he was in Brazil, Uruguay again, Bolivia and "a couple of other places I can't find in the record," said one of his co-workers.

In 1964, he went to Lebanon again, and this year he was in Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico.

A few of Dr. Follis' trips were made to attend medical conferences, but most were to carry out field studies in his specialty: The cure and prevention of goiter. He also was an expert on dwarfism and growth retardation in children.

Much of the time Dr. Follis traveled alone on occasion, however, he was accompanied by a medical colleague.

On Thursday, Dec. 2, Dr. Follis took shuttle plane from Washington to New York and left for Amsterdam on a non-stop jet. He arrived there on Friday morning and that day, according to his friends here, kept an appointment with a Dr. Oomen, a Dutch expert in the field of

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